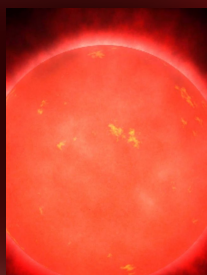




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## Sunsets on Acacia Two



space

sunsets

spaceships

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### Chapter 1 by Laura Frost

Sunsets would never be the same again.

I don't know why I was so focused on that one fact. Many things would never be the same again now that the Earth Evacuation was fully underway. Already I was aboard the Renascence, eighteenth ship of the Earthen Fleet, heading towards Acacia Two, new home for the citizens aboard ships sixteen through twenty.

I would never see an earth sunset again. Acacia Two had a similar day/night cycle, but it would never be the same, mostly because Acacia was red star. I had heard many descriptions of Acacia Two, its three moons, (only one of which had a life-sustaining atmosphere) the strange and varied landscape, and the native flora and fauna.

The information is still on my HoloCard. I looked over the images with my family when they got their assigned planet. The colors were so different, so strange.

I still don't know how I feel about this.

At least being here is better than being back on earth. Being burned to death by the heat of our expanding sun does not sound like a good option.

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see my younger sister on the other side of the small room. There are over 10,000 people on this ship, all waiting to be resettled in a week.

The stars continue to blur outside my porthole. I lean in close, watching my reflection as the occasional star shines through my dark face. The sunsets on planets around those stars, I wonder what they're like.

Are any of them like Earth?

How many planets out there have yellow stars and earth-like atmospheres? How many are the same distance away, or at least have the same ratio as earth and sol?

How many sunsets will I see before I am gone, like all the people who chose to stay in our dying solar system?

All I know is that I am going to miss them, the earthen sunsets. And that I am looking forward to seeing my first sunset on Acacia Two.

## Chapter 2 by Coraline Castell



Despite the fact that the unknown unsettled me to my core, the prospect of change fueled me on. A new planet would be a great place to continue my studies, I knew. I had longed for new fauna and flora to analyze, new creatures to see, new soil to step on and extract for experiments. I smiled at the thought.

My sister slept peacefully, unaware of all the thoughts that ran through my head. Would she be safe? Would she make new friends? Would she grow up fine in this new atmosphere?

We had been assigned one of the best planets, as it was fit for the wealthiest portion. Some people got assigned to planets with only 70.2% chances of survival and prosperity – that's all they could afford, 0.2% above the minimum legal margin. Our new planet, Acadia Two, had an 86.9% rate.

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"We'll be there in roughly an Earth day, you know." My elder brother said. "But had we been assigned to Acadia One, we'd already be there." His voice was cold as he uttered those last words. "With a 90.1% rate to top it off."

"Were father and mother here, they'd kick you off this ship."

"Were father and mother still alive, idiot, we would be dead on Earth with them." He looked deep into my eyes. "Is that what you would have preferred?"

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